(2) THE JEWISH NATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Jews who consider themselves part of the Jewish people are less numerous than those professing the Jewish religion, many of the latter having drifted away from their national community. Since the days of the Jewish State in Palestine till the eighteenth century, that community existed wherever there were Jews, and it subsists to this day in Eastern Europe and the Near East. But in other countries., and to a lesser extent even in Eastern Europe and in the Near East, numbers of Jews have left, or are leaving, their own community for those of the non-Jews. Such change is not effected by a single, ascertamable, spontaneous act, but by a slow spiritual transformation. Normally everyone belongs to the community wit!i which lie feels closest united in language, culture, customs, and habits. By growing up in different cultural surroundings, lie may become connected with a national community other than that of his parents. This change receives official expression in countries where the nationality of the inhabitants—in the linguistic, cultural, or racial sense of the word—is inquired after and registered at the census. In some countries, *e.g.* Soviet Russia, every inhabitant has to declare his nationality, which in entered accordingly; in other countries, *e.g.*Poland, the language spoken at home, which is the

most important mark of nationality, is noted and adopted as criterion—the Yiddish-speaking Jew thus counts as a Jew, the Polish-speaking Jew as a Pole.[1] Borne countries *(e.g.* Hungary and Austria) do not recognise the ^existence of a Jewish nationality or of a Jewish language, but, for statistical purposes, register the Jews, even if Yiddish is their language, as members of the dominant nationality.

[1] In the statistical returns of cart-am countric» the Jew *qua* member of his religious community i» duHoribttd by the word** *Israelite, Mosaic, Judwki,* but *qm* member of a national group, as *Juif> Hebrew, Yewrciski,* **In** other countries tho same word *(Juif, Jude, Hebrew)* is uaed for both categories*